

resent the federal government telling our state what it has to do, that same feeling is carried forth by local counties, cities and villages. They, too, would like to have their authority brought from their own areas, not the state telling them what they must do. We tell them often enough. In one instance where we do not have to tell them, let's give them a break.

PRESIDENT: Senator Brennan.

SENATOR BRENNAN: Mr. Chairman, members of the body. I would like to ask Senator Newell a question.

PRESIDENT: Senator Newell.

SENATOR BRENNAN: Senator Newell, was your amendment ever... has the question ever come up whether your amendment was germane or not?

SENATOR NEWELL: No, that was the question I was going to ask Senator Marsh in a minute.

SENATOR BRENNAN: I'll let you have part of my time if you can't get it. Do I have to ask one other question?

PRESIDENT: You have five minutes, about four minutes now.

SENATOR BRENNAN: I yield to Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: I was going to ask Senator Marsh the same question. I think I'll phrase it myself, instead of try to embarrass Senator Marsh. The situation is this--the State of Nebraska, as many people in this Legislature realize, is the political parent of all local government. You can look at the bills on General File, on Select File, and so forth, and you'll find that better than 50 percent of them deal with some sort of statute change to local government. They tell them how much they can raise for parking money, where the court costs go, how much they have to charge for this service or that service, and the regulations are continual and ever-going. That is because we are state government and we have that responsibility. I think this amendment is as germane as any amendment. The question here is whether or not Nebraska is going to give the rights that the courts are giving the public employees of this state every day. Or whether or not we're going to have to force the public employees to go to each and every local government and say 'through court tests and court actions we demand our rights and, therefore, we ought to have them'. I'm saying that we ought to say, and this amendment says that this is legal to participate in government. There are still limitations. The limitations that you can't be a political party officer, and there are all kinds of limitations that yet apply. In fact, I really would like to take those up, but at this point I think that is a new question. That is exactly what has happened here. If Senator Marsh would just look at the paper, just three days ago the Lincoln paper had an article about how the court has struck down the limitations in Lincoln, Nebraska.

PRESIDENT: We are under Call, senators.

SENATOR NEWELL: Her own city. I don't understand exactly why she is opposing this since the court has mandated it, and they're going to continue to mandate it everytime we bring up a court case. The amendment ought to stand. The